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PAGE 01 CANBER 03466 230631Z
ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AF-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-01	/056W
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P 230628Z JUN 94
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4869
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA/J5//
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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BRISBANE ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 CANBER 03466 230631Z

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, UN, RW, AS, FR
SUBJECT: RWANDA PEACEKEEPING -- AUSTRALIA DEFERS
. DECISION ON TROOPS, SENDS A RECON TEAM

REF: CANBERRA 2866 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE GOA HAS DECIDED TO SEND A FIVE-PERSON
MILITARY RECONNAISSANCE TEAM TO RWANDA AND NEW YORK AND
TO POSTPONE A DECISION ON PROVIDING TROOPS FOR UN

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PEACEKEEPING IN RWANDA. THE TEAM WILL PREPARE A RISK ASSESSMENT EXPECTED IN MID-JULY. DEFMIN RAY AND FM EVANS JOINTLY CALLED FRANCE'S ACTION "THE MOST RECENT NEW ELEMENT COMPLICATING THE SITUATION." RAY DECLARED HE WOULD NOT SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN RWANDA UNLESS "THE RISKS ARE ACCEPTABLE" AND "EVERY PRECAUTION IS TAKEN." END SUMMARY.

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AUSTRALIA DISPATCHES RECON TEAM TO RWANDA AND NEW YORK

2. AFTER MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER PAUL KEATING, MINISTER FOR DEFENSE ROBERT RAY AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS GARETH EVANS ANNOUNCED LATE JUNE 22 THAT AUSTRALIA WILL DEFER A DECISION ON PARTICIPATING IN UN PEACEKEEPING IN RWANDA (REFTEL). INSTEAD, THEY SAID, THE GOA WILL DISPATCH A FIVE-PERSON MILITARY RECONNAISSANCE TEAM TO RWANDA AND NEW YORK, CHARGED WITH ASSESSING THE RISK TO POTENTIAL AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS. THE TEAM IS EXPECTED TO REPORT BACK IN MID-JULY, AND THE QUESTION OF ANY DEFINITE COMMITMENT WILL BE

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PAGE 03 CANBER 03466 230631Z
ADDRESSED THEREAFTER.

3. THE MINISTERS' JOINT STATEMENT DECLARED: "SHOULD A DECISION THEN BE MADE TO PARTICIPATE, THAT SHOULD STILL BE IN TIME FOR WHAT IS CURRENTLY EXPECTED TO BE THE SECOND STAGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN RWANDA. THE MOST LIKELY AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTION, IN THE EVENT OF AN AFFIRMATIVE DECISION BEING MADE, WOULD BE A MEDICAL CONTINGENT ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE SECURITY PROTECTION."

SITUATION "COMPLICATED" BY FRANCE'S ACTION

4. ECHOING ASPECTS OF EVANS'S JUNE 21 REMARKS TO A SENATE COMMITTEE (REFTEL), THE TWO MINISTERS CALLED FRANCE'S ENFORCEMENT ACTION "THE MOST RECENT NEW ELEMENT COMPLICATING THE SITUATION," SAYING IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW THESE ACTIVITIES WILL MESH WITH THE UN'S SUBSEQUENT PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS. REFERRING TO THE DECLARATION OF THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT THAT FRENCH INTERVENTION WILL BE REGARDED AS AN ACT OF WAR AND WILL BE RESISTED MILITARILY, THE JOINT STATEMENT DESCRIBED THIS AS "A PARTICULAR PRACTICAL PROBLEM."

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RAY'S CONCERN ABOUT RISKS TO AUSSIE TROOPS

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5. IN PERSONAL COMMENTS IN THE SENATE EARLIER JUNE 22,
DEFMIN RAY SAID, "FRANCE HAS MADE INITIATIVES -- I
SUPPOSE SPECTACULAR IS THE BEST WAY OF DESCRIBING THEM
-- THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH WE CANNOT ASSESS.... WE
ARE YET TO ASSESS THE REACTION OF EITHER SIDE -- THE

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PAGE 04 CANBER 03466 230631Z
GOVERNMENT AND THE REBEL FORCES -- IN RWANDA AND WHAT
EFFECT THAT WILL HAVE ON UNAMIR II.... THERE ARE ALWAYS
RISKS INVOLVED IN ANY UNITED NATIONS COMMITMENT. BUT,
UNLESS I AM SATISFIED THAT THE RISKS ARE ACCEPTABLE,
THAT EVERY PRECAUTION IS TAKEN, THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT PUT
IN A POSITION WHERE THEY BECOME TOTALLY VULNERABLE TO
UNNECESSARY INJURY OR SICKNESS OR WHATEVER ELSE, I WILL
NOT SUPPORT IT." PERKINS

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